

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated May 19, 2005, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

In response to the objection to the drawing, the specification has been amended to include the missing reference numeral.

In response to the objection to the abstract, submitted herewith is a replacement abstract conforming to PTO guidelines.

In order to advance prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the contribution of the invention over the prior art.

The present invention is directed to a cylinder-piston unit that includes a split ring and a rod, constituting a piston, that is constructed to positively retain the split ring in such a manner that the rod, with the split ring, can be inserted into the piston, afterwhich the split ring will be moved to a final seat, where the split ring extends past the outer surface of the rod and thus acts to retain the rod within the cylinder.

This is achieved by providing the rod with two circumferential grooves, the first of which acts as a final seat for the split ring, and the second of which forms a retention seat that holds the split ring so that its external

generator slide below the outer surface of the rod. Because the second groove forms a retention seat and holds the split ring so that its external generators are below the outer surface of the rod, it is possible to insert the rod into the cylinder with the split ring in place on the retention seat. After insertion, a counter acting member within the cylinder acts to move the split ring to the first groove, which is dimensioned to cause the external generators of the ring to lie beyond the outer surface of the rod, whereby the rod will be retained within the cylinder.

The applied reference does not disclose a unit having such structural characteristics. The cylinder rod disclosed in this reference includes, in addition to a final seat for a split ring, a chamfered end on which the ring can be supported as long as the rod is held in the upright position shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7 of the reference. In the unit disclosed in this reference, the external generators of the split ring, when the ring is unstressed, have a dimension such that they extend beyond the outer surface of the rod. The ring must be inserted by itself into the cylinder before introduction of the rod. After the leading end of the rod has been inserted, the cylinder must be shaken in order to seat the ring in the cylinder bore. Then, during insertion of the

rod, the ring will be carried along by resting on the chamfered end of the rod.

It should be apparent from the description presented above that the rod cannot be inserted into the cylinder with the ring being held in place on the rod. Thus, assembly of the unit disclose in the reference is more complex than assembly of the unit according to the present invention.

In any event, the applied reference does not disclose a second groove configured to form a retention seat. The chamfered end of rod 11 of the reference unit does not constitute a retention seat. Since the ring remains in contact with that end only as long as the rod is in an upright position. With chamfered end of the rod clearly is not dimensioned to hold the ring so that the external generators of the ring lie below the outer surface of the rod.

Thus, claim 1 now distinguishes patentably over the applied reference by its recitation of a unit comprising a cylinder and a rod, the rod having two adjacent circumferential grooves, the first of which acts as a final seat for a split ring defining the level of the outward stroke of the rod, and the second of which acts as a temporary seat for the split ring enabling the rod with the split ring mounted thereon to be inserted into the cylinder, wherein the second groove is configured to form a retention seat for the

split ring and is dimensioned to hold the split ring so that the external generators of the split ring lie below the outer surface of the rod, thereby allowing the split ring to be inserted with the rod into the cylinder during assembly.

Claims 2-4 should be considered allowable at least in view of their dependency from claim 1. In addition, it is believed that at least claim 4 further distinguishes over the applied reference.

In view of foregoing, it is requested that the prior art rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, that the claims 1-4 be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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